

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR KS ID

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC REPORT: YI CHAE-SOL (PREFERRED SPELLING
JAE SUL LEE), ROK AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA

1. THE ROKG MARCH 8 ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF YI
CHAE-SOL AS AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA; HE EXPECTS
TO LEAVE FOR THE POST ON ABOUT MARCH 25. YI LEFT
HIS POSITION AS VICE MINISTER ECONOMIC PLANNING
BOARD FEB 1.

2. YOUNG, INTELLIGENT, WELL INFORMED AND EDUCATED
IN THE US YI HAS LONG BEEN A PRINCIPAL
AND HELPFUL EMBASSY CONTRACT IN THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS
AND HAS BEEN A MAJOR FIGURE IN RECENT KOREAN
ECONOMIC POLICY. AS EPB VICE MINISTER HE
CHAIRLED THE MEETINGS OF ECONOMIC VICE MINISTERS
CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF ROKG ECONOMIC
POLICY. HE IS KNOWN TO STAFFS OF IMF AND IBRD
IN WASHINGTON AS A SKILLED AND AGGRESSIVE
NEGOTIATOR.

3. YI WAS BORN IN SEOUL AUGUST 27, 1932. HE
GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI (1956),
ATTENDED GRADUATE SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA (1957) AND JOINED THE FINANCE MINISTRY
IN 1958. AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE FINANCE
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MINISTER KIM YONG-SON DURING THE CHANG MYON

GOVERNMENT, HE WAS IN CHARGE OF AN ATTEMPTED REFORM OF THE KOREAN INTEREST RATE STRUCTURE.

4. FOLLOWING THE MILITARY COUP HE INITIALLY WAS CRITICAL OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, HE BECAME INVOLVED IN FINANCE MINISTRY POLICY FORMULATION AS DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUREAU (1965-67), ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (1967-69). AND VICE FINANCE MINISTER (1969-70). IN 1970 HE BECAME VICE CONSTRUCTION MINISTER AND IN 1972 FOLLOWED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TAE WAN-SON FROM CONSTRUCTION TO THE ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD.

5. SINCE 1963 YI HAS SERVED FREQUENTLY AS A ROK DELEGATE TO MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE 1965 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK AND IN MARCH 1972 WAS A MEMBER OF A WIDE RANGING ECONOMIC MISSION TO THE US.

6. YI IS AFFABLE, OUTGOING, SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL, AND CAN CONVERSE ON A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS. HE ENJOYS OFFICIAL AND SOCIAL CONTACT WITH AMERICANS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO SEEK OUT US OFFICIALS IN JAKARTA SOON AFTER ARRIVAL.

7. YI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED TO INDONESIA BY HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN. MRS. YI HAS A PLEASANT PERSONALITY, SPEAKS ENGLISH ALTHOUGH WITH SOME HESITANCY AND FREQUENTLY TAKES PART IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH HER HUSBAND.
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